

## **COSTA BLANCA MOUNTAIN WALKERS - WALK DESCRIPTION**

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<b>Walk description originally prepared by:-</b>	Ralph Phipps
<b>Last Updated</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
<b>Title of Walk</b>	Pessons and Montmalus circuit from Grau Roig
<b>Location of Start (include name of nearest village/town at start of description)</b>	Soldeu Grau Roig ski area car park (S end) Vast ski car park SE end near ticket office.
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Distance in km</b>	12
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Ascent in m</b>	930
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Walking time and total completion time including any stops</b>	4hr 6hr
<b>Key Statistics for walk - Grade (using CBMW system)</b>	VS/B/Scr/X
<b>Grid reference of start point (if known)</b>	Lat: 42.531016, Long: 1.697128
<b>Directions to Start</b>	Follow the CG2 through Andorra N towards France and after Soldeu turn SE. DO NOT take the route through the Envalira tunnel instead taking the L turn at the roundabout in front of this. Follow this a short distance and then turn R into the vast car park for the ski area. At the fork keep R and descend to the parking area at Grau Roig. Now take the mountain taxi if you can – runs up to mid Sep each year during the summer months. (€4 ea. way in 2020)
<b>Short walk description</b>	A demanding but very rewarding high level circuit taking in the picturesque Pessons lakes and 2 potential summits – Pessons and Montmalus with a tricky gully descend between them. <span style="color: red;">The ascent and distance are reduced to 10km and 730m if the taxi is taken from Grau Roig to the Restaurant del Llac dels Pessons. The description and data start at this point.</span>
<b>Full Walk Description</b>	<b>Elapsed Walking Time/Distance so far</b>
From the restaurant turn L for around the lake following R/W markers to arrive at a finger post signed R towards Collado dels Pessons which we take to cross a stream and continue ahead following R/W markers.	240m, 4.5min

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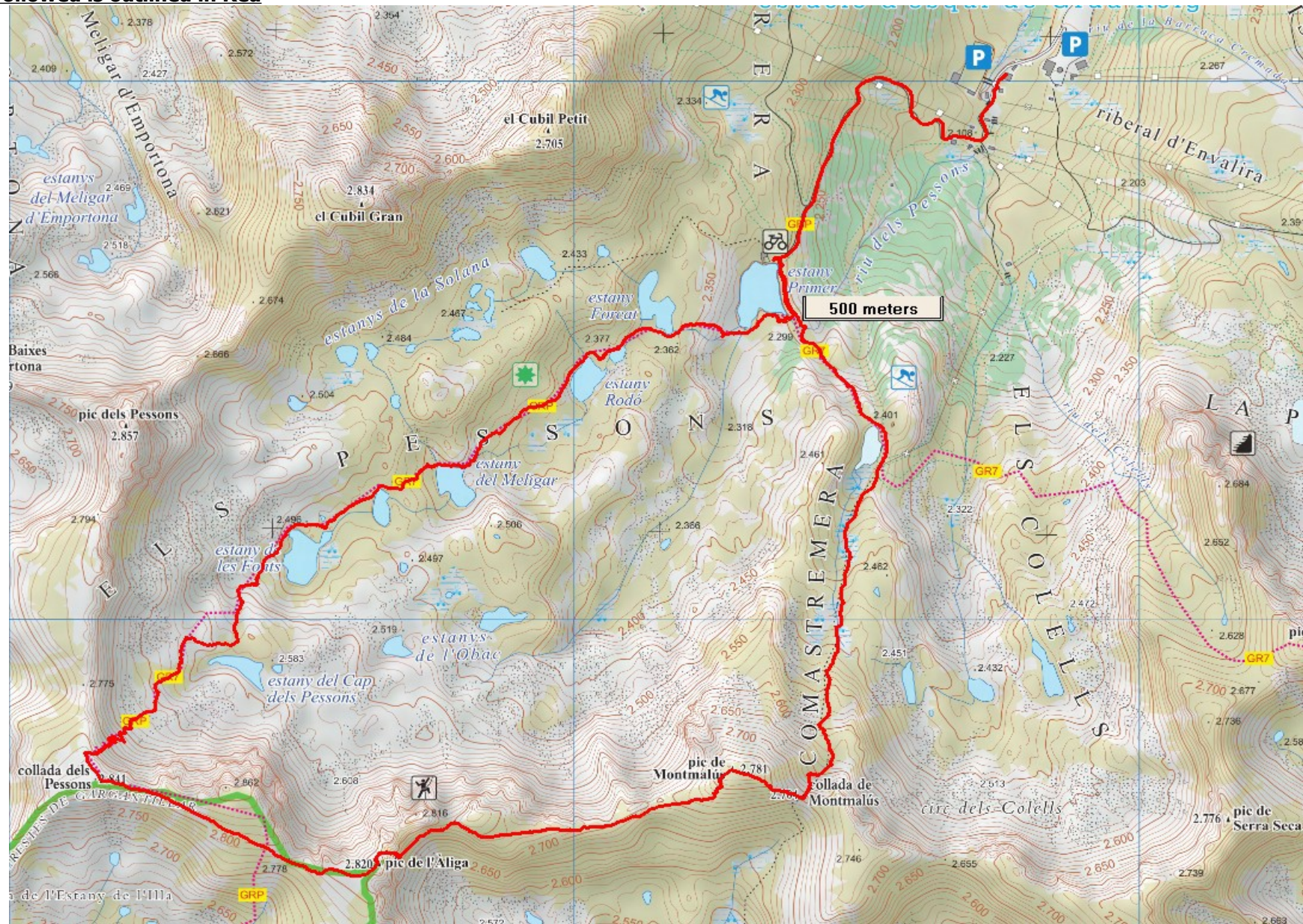
<p>Now you proceed up this steadily climbing path past a series of beautiful lakes to arrive at a second finger post where you again follow towards the Collado de Pessons and soon you may be able to pick out the zig-zag path ascending to the collado.</p>	
<p>Persevere with this to finally reach the collado and here there is a further finger post.</p>	<p>4.4km, 1hr 46min</p>
<p>From the Col de Pessons follow the red and white markers gently uphill and over to the RHS of the ridge line to avoid rocks. Where the slope up to the summit is obvious the path splits and a path continues ahead soon descending slightly with red white markers.</p>	
<p>This soon emerges in an area that is heavily eroded but the continuing path ahead can be seen going on from the col.</p>	<p>5.3km, 2hr 3min</p>
<p>Follow this and work uphill towards the twin towers of L'Aliga where you keep left to reach the col between the two towers.</p>	<p>5.7km, 2hr 11min</p>
<p>From here your cross to the RHS and descend awkwardly down through grassy slopes with an eroded path.</p>	
<p>Once you get below the last crag on the left watch carefully for the path turning to the left with cairns.....</p>	<p>5.8km, 2hr 14min</p>
<p>..... and continuing now gently uphill along the flank to reach a col before the next rocky top.</p>	<p>6.1km, 2hr 20min</p>
<p>Climb a short way up this slope (10 or 15m) before contouring around on the RHS on a cairned and rocky path.</p>	
<p>This is poorly defined but the going gets steadily easier and you then start to work up again towards the col in front of Montmalus keeping to the right of a small rib before arriving at the col.</p>	<p>6.9km, 2hr 34min</p>
<p>Now work uphill vaguely to begin with but soon intercepting more obvious zig zags which you follow to the summit with its marker pole (adorned with brags! as on my visit)</p>	<p>7.3km, 2hr 43min</p>
<p>Continue directly ahead to soon find the descending path on the far side of this top which becomes clearer and more eroded as it drops down to Collado de Montmalus.</p>	
<p>Here there is a small monument and you turn left to descend on a straightforward path which leads you down to a nameless lake at the top of a ski lift (on your R) and then onward and down to Estany Primer and the restaurant and the returning taxi.</p>	<p>7.6km, 2hr 50min</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><small>Andorra maps:- Source: Ministeri d'Ordenament Territorial, Govern d'Andorra</small></p>	
<p><b>Walk Recommendations or restrictions</b></p>	<p>There is a short but challenging gully descent on grass and eroded scree between the 2 summits. Care is needed but it is worth the effort for the scenery all around.</p>

see map below.....

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**Route followed is outlined in Red**



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